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1766

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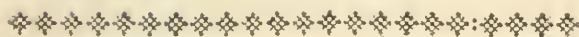
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A

P A R A L L E L.



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A
P A R A L L E L;

Drawn between the

ADMINISTRATION

In the Four last Years of

QUEEN ANNE,

And the Four First of

GEORGE the THIRD.

By a COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

— aut ulla putatis
Dona carere dolis Danaum? Sic notus Ulysses?

VIRG. Æn. 2.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington House,
Piccadilly. 1766.

THE JOURNAL OF THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

PARALLEL, &c.

THE present critical situation of our *national* affairs, calls aloud for the assistance of every true Lover of his Country, as far as his knowledge and abilities extend. The Author of this little Work solemnly declares, before he begins to draw his *Parallel*, that he belongs to none of those Parties and Factions that at present distract, he had almost said, ruin the Kingdom. The *Cause* of these contentions is obvious enough to

B every

every man of common understanding. *Self-Interest*, and a design to thrust themselves into places of power and profit, without the least regard to the welfare of the Kingdom, has frequently been the unhappy cause of these calamities. The Author from his heart abhors and detests such principles, such a total loss of true Honour and Patriotism, which must end, if not speedily check'd, in the utter subversion of all Government. He loves his King and Country, and therefore thinks he has an equal right with others, to throw in his mite for the service of both. *Pro rege sæpe, pro republica semper.*

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The Author is humbly of opinion, that he sees the most striking Parallel, that ever existed in any period of the *English* History, between the *four last* Years of the Reign of *Q. Anne*, and the *four first* of *George the Third*. And he hopes the candid part of mankind will be of the same opinion, when they see it fairly drawn out. There is such a striking coincidence of circumstances, that, he thinks, cannot fail to strike every *impartial reader*. His Observations are drawn from *Facts* and *History*, and are not designed to court the favour, or gratify the resentment of any Party whatever. He doubts not, but our *ministerial Directors*, who

B 2 enjoy'd

enjoy'd the Sovereign's Confidence immediately after the death of the late King, before the *great Commoner's* Resignation, will be very severe in their reflections upon him. If he offends them, he cannot help it ; they should have been more careful of their conduct, and not have so rashly expos'd themselves to the just censure of every honest man, and true lover of his country.

The *principal persons* in the great *political* Drama, that was acted in the *four last years* of *Q. Anne*, were the Lords *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke*, and that *great General* the Duke of *Marlborough*. To these we may add *Mrs. Masham*, who
was

was the *secret Manager* in the Closet, and the artful Contriver of all those fatal Changes that were brought about in the year 1709. From the first moment this *Tory-Administration* sat at the Helm, they determined to make *Peace* with *France* at all events, and to run into measures directly opposite to those of their Predecessors.

In the great Scene that has been so lately exhibited, we may reckon the *principal Actors* were the Earl of B——, the Duke of B——, and that great Commoner, *Mr. Pitt*. In this Scene, a similar *female Character* must be introduced, which directly corresponds with that of *Mrs. Masham*. She
was

was the *secret Spring* that directed all the late political Operations, and served Lord B— in the same capacity, as Mrs. *Masbam* did Lord *Oxford*, by possessing the royal ear, and whispering every thing they could hatch up to the discredit of the *great Commoner*; in the same manner as Lord *Oxford* and Mrs. *Masbam* had done to the discredit of the *great General*. They procured their vile Sycophants, the Tools of any Men in Power, to proclaim it aloud in all companies, that we had conquer'd too much, and that more Victories and Conquests, like those of *Pyrrhus*, wou'd quite undo us. This the Author has himself heard eccho'd from one Court-Tool to another, and from
all

all the scandalous Retailers of *political Lyes*, who have instructions from their masters to impose upon mankind.

From the very moment of his late Majesty's death, we may date the design of Lord B——, the Duke of B——, &c. to *make Peace* with *France* at all events, in the same manner as the Tory Ministry of *Q. Anne* did, from the first moment they held the reins of Government. And this indeed must be said in their favour, that, as they *pretended* to believe we had conquer'd too much, so they acted accordingly, and gave up *liberally*. There was likewise incontestably the same intention in this latter period,

riod, to introduce another *Tory-Administration*, and this Scheme was concerted, even before the death of the late King, as appears from the letters that passed concerning the Southampton Election. Mr. Legge could not be brought to submit to the *Favourite* in this point, and therefore fell the first sacrifice to his resentment.

Thus far the candid reader must surely fall in with the Author's opinion, and think the Parallel justly and impartially drawn. The Principles of *both Administrations* were the *same*, the *Measures* they *both* pursu'd were the *same*. A bloody and expensive War with *France* attended both these Periods. The
War

War on our part was *fortunate*, and *France* reduc'd to the *same Distress* in *both*. The only difference was, that in the former Period we conquer'd Towns and Provinces for our *Allies*, but the *great Commoner* conquer'd for *ourselves*. The *Gallic* power may with great truth be said to be more reduc'd, during Mr. *P — ti's Administration*, than ever it was by the great Duke of *Marlborough*. *France* was sunk down to the lowest ebb of fortune in both these Periods, and yet found means to extricate herself out of all her dangers and difficulties, by the introduction of a *Tory Ministry* to the Helm. The Author does not mean to stop here, but, in the sequel, to enquire into the *Cause*

C of

of this excessive complaisance in a *Tory Administration* for the *French Monarch*.

In the year 1709 Lord *Oxford* and Lord *Bolingbroke* mounted the political *Pegasus*. Their *Administration* was a strange composition of *Weakness* or *Wickedness*, or both. Mrs. *Masbam* had gained them the entire confidence of the *Queen*, and she had imbibed the strongest prejudice in their favour. Such likewise was the *corrupt State* of the Nation, the same as it was in the *latter Period*, that the *new Ministry* soon found an *House of Commons* to serve their purpose, and support their iniquitous measures. The influence of Statesmen will always

ways be very great, when armed and fortified with *Places* and *Pensions*, to gratify *selfish* Minds.

The *House of Lords* werethought not to be complaisant enough for their new Masters: in order therefore to secure a *certain Majority* there, they ventured upon doing an Act, without any Precedent in the *English* History (viz.) of creating *twelve new* Lords at once. These were such *staunch Hounds*, and entered so greedily into the measures of the Ministry, that my Lord *Wharton* very jocosely asked them, — Whether they voted by their *Foreman*.

This new Ministry began the Exercise of their Power with a

C 2 *Violence,*

Violence, peculiar to *themselves*, and that exactly corresponded with the malignity of their *Principles*. They dared not directly and openly attack the *great General* himself, whose *Fame* and Character was so far superior to their malice, but they fell unmercifully upon all his *Friends*. The Lords *Godolphin* and *Sunderland* became the victims of their rage, and even the *great General's Wife* was dismissed from all her *Employments*. Every affront and indignity was offered to this *great Man*, in order to oblige him to resign those employments they could not safely venture to take from him. This was a point, even too hardy for them, with all their assurance, to attempt,

tempt, till they were secure of a Majority in *both Houses*. The *great General* must be in a strange dilemma how to act, — whether to follow the dictates of *Nature* and *just Resentment*, in resigning all his Employments, which was the very thing they expected and wished for, or continue to serve his Country in the midst of such undeserved mortifications. To his *immortal Honour* be it spoken, that he chose the latter, and gloriously resolved — not to desert his Country. If they would *turn* him out, he was fully determined the odium should fall entirely upon *themselves*.

Vincet amor Patria, laudumque im-
mensa Cupido. VIRG.

When

When they thought themselves sufficiently strong, and had poisoned the Sovereign's ear with secret lyes and whispers, they put the *Queen* upon doing the most unpopular act (*viz.*) to send the *great General* a discharge from all further service, in a letter under her own hand. They chose to do this at the most unlucky time, when the *General's* military character had arrived to the highest pitch of Glory ; when his Grace in the former campaign had taken possession of all the *French* lines without bloodshed, and fairly outwitted *Marshal Villars*, the best General of the Enemy, who had boasted, that *these lines* would prove a *ne plus ultra*
to

to the Duke's conquests. At a time when he was admired, nay almost adored abroad, the envy and malice of his Enemies could not bear the lustre of his fame any longer, and overturned him at *home*. Thus fell this *great Man* by such a base and infamous Administration, as *this* or any other Nation had seldom seen.

Let us now shift the scene to the *late Period*, and see how the *great Commoner* (as great in *one* sense, as ever the Duke of *Marlborough* was in another) acted upon a *similar* occasion. Upon the accession of his present Majesty, it is natural to suppose, that *new Favorites*, and another set of men, would be introduced

duced into the Cabinet. *One* in particular was soon found to enjoy an uncommon share of the young Sovereign's favour, which he abused to the worst purposes. He was the *Polar Star*, by which all the Court-mariners were to steer their vessels to the harbour of Preferment. The Duke of B—— had the closest connection with the *new Favourite*. His reasons for so doing he best knows himself; but if we may judge from their actions and the consequences that ensued, they appear to be *very bad ones*. These *two Noblemen* exactly corresponded in *this Period*, to the Lords *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke* in the *former*. The doctrine of *Oeconomy*, and the Detriment of our numerous Conquests,

quests were taught in the School of the *new Favourite*, and preached in every part of the Nation, where they could find Fools to propagate it, in order to bring discredit upon Mr. *P—tt*'s Administration. He had acquired as deserved a Fame in his *civil* Capacity, as ever the *great General* had in the *military*. The *Favourite* and his Friends dared not directly to attack him, but they took all possible pains to undermine him, to vilify his Measures and slight his Counsels. Had he waited but a short time, they would as surely have dismissed him as *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke* did the *great General*, and for the same iniquitous reasons, because they could not bear the superior lustre

of his Fame, and because he would have opposed their secret Design of making *Peace* with *France* upon *inadequate* terms. With humblest submission to the opinion of the *great Commoner*, the Author thinks he ought to have imitated the *conduct* of the *great General* in this particular. He should have stood his ground as long as he was able, and not deserted his Country, till the commands of his Sovereign obliged him. By this conduct he would have removed the Odium, attending his Resignation, entirely from *himself*, and thrown it, where it ought to lay, upon his *Adversaries*. Thus much however must be said in his favour, that there was a manifest difference, not so much
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in the Conduct, as the *Situation* of these two great Men. *One* went to command the army *abroad*, and by this means was delivered from his enemies at *home*. The *other* in the Cabinet was every day exposed to their insults, and constantly liable to be disappointed in his measures for the Service of his Country.

The Sovereign has now, with great Prudence and Judgment, dismissed the *worst Ministry* that ever dishonoured their Country in modern times, except that in the four last years of Queen *Anne*. What reason therefore can the *great Commoner* now give, why he should not resume the Direction of Af-

fairs, at a time too, when his Country wants and demands his Assistance, and the present *honest Administration* would gladly embrace every opportunity to oblige him ?

It can scarce be doubted, but the Ministry in the *first Period* had formed the design of introducing the *P——r*, and setting aside the *Protestant Succession* in the House of *Hanover*. That the *Queen* herself had resolved upon such a measure is not absolutely so certain. How was the Nation saved from *civil War* and Bloodshed, and from the destruction that threatened it at that Period ? — By the *Quarrel* of the *two* Leaders in this scene of Iniquity, *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke*.

broke. They were jealous of each other in the bewitching article of Power : like *Cæsar* and *Pompey*, one could bear *no Equal*, and the other *no Superior*. By the contention of the *two latter*, *Rome* was enslaved ; and by the contention of the *two former*, *England* was preserved. Their mutual jealousy created a mutual distrust, and prevented the execution of their grand Project. Their resentment was so great, and their passions so violent, that they are said to have drawn their swords upon each other in her Majesty's presence.

Our two political Heroes of recent memory B—— and B——, were not of so fiery a temper, but
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in every thing else they resemble the *other two* to the greatest exactness. When they had overturned the *great Commoner* by their secret intrigues, in the same manner, as the *other two* had done the *great General*, a *private Squabble* of their own procured the Dismission of *both*, and saved the Nation from the pernicious tendency of their blundering Counsels. From the fatal Specimen we had already seen, we had but too much reason to dread what was to come *after*.

In this base Mint was the *American* Stamp Act coined, which has thrown the Mother-country and her Colonies into the most unhappy confusion. The Author will not pretend

pretend to enter, in this short Work, into the merits of the question. It is now before an August Assembly, whose Counsels he wishes a spirit of Wisdom and Moderation may direct. But can any honest Englishman hesitate for a moment, whether the *Act* ought to be *repealed*, when he considers the *Shop* it came out of. It is a just Observation made upon the *Ministry* in the former Period, that they were the most wretched Blunderers that ever pretended to manage the affairs of a Nation. The *same* may justly be said of *these*. But whether both of them had not *deeper Designs*, and were bigger *K*—— than *F*—— the Author must leave to impartial Posterity to judge.

The

The *late Administration* was certainly a *Tory One*, of which Lord B—— was at the head, and the only one, that could properly be called so, since the Accession of the present Family to the Throne. A *Tory Ministry* never forebodes any good to *England*. The *same Ministry* had, in the *four last* years of *Q. Anne*, brought the Nation to the brink of destruction. The *same* evil spirit was in *these*, the *same* excessive Complaisance for *France* in her distress, the *same* determined Resolution to make *Peace* with that Nation at all events. The Author would conceal no Truth that he firmly believes himself. *France* is the only Nation, from
whence

whence *that Party* of men can entertain the least shadow of *Hope*. This seems to be the true reason of their ill-judged indulgence to that perfidious Nation. They have always shewn more regard for *that Kingdom* than they have for their *own*; and thus they acted in the *four last Years* of *Q. Anne*, and the *four first* of *George the Third*.

Can any Conduct be more impolitic, than to trust a P—— of S—— with the direction of our national affairs? It would be full as wise to trust a Sharper, in the article of Gaming. He may play you fair indeed, but it is ten to one that he cheats you. It is a notorious fact, that in S—— they eve-

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ry Sunday *still* pray for the *Restoration* of the *exil'd Family*, and that too many of them *still* are of the same Persuasion. Can or ought such men as these to be trusted, who are ready to embrace every opportunity to overturn the *Constitution* in *Church* and *State*.

The Principles of every *honest Englishman* are steady in the support of *both*, and of the present Family upon the Throne, as inseparably united with the *other*. Had every *Whig Administration* since the *Revolution*, taken as much care of the *Constitution* in the *Church*, as they have done of the *Constitution* in the *State*, no mortal would have any reason to find fault with them.

them. The Author would venture to assert, that no *Tory Administration* could ever support their Power for a *single Twelvemonth* in this Kingdom. It was this Circumstance that greatly contributed to overturn the Whig Administration in the year 1709. *Q. Anne* was a *true Friend* to the *Church*, and the *only one* she has met with since the *Revolution*. It was either an *injudicious* or *designed* neglect of the interests of the *Church*, that first shook the Power of that Ministry, and disgusted the *Queen*. Neither the Preaching or Popularity of that impudent Fellow *Sacheverel* had any great influence, but it was the general Opinion of the Nation, that the *Church* of *Eng-*

land was in danger, and that the *Whig Ministry* had neglected her Interests. This opinion aggravated, no doubt, by the *Enemies* of the *Ministry* and the *Tory-faction*, operated very strongly upon the *Queen*, was the *grand Cause* of the unhappy Changes that followed, and proved detrimental to the Nation. The *Whig Ministry*, by the *Act of Union*, established *Presbyterianism* by Law in *Scotland*, and took no care to provide a *Tolerance* for the *Episcopal Clergy* and People, at the same time that the *Presbyterian Religion* was tolerated in *England*. Was not this a most partial and unfair Proceeding, to deny a Favour to the *Church of England* in one Kingdom, which
had

had been already granted to the *Church of Scotland* in the *other*? This is the Rock upon which our *Whig Administrations* have always split; they have taken very good care of the *Constitution* in the *State*, but very little of the *Church*.

While the *Church of England* is established by Law, it ought to be uppermost, and properly supported, and not upon every occasion be forced to give way to the perverse humours and caprice of those who *dissent* from it. And no *true Friend* to the Laws and Constitution of his Country, will ever suffer it. Such a conduct is as *unnatural*, as to make the *Mother* in every Family-squabble submit to her *undutiful Children*. His

His present Majesty publicly declared at his Accession, that he would *strengthen* the *Constitution* in *Church* and *State*. If the present Administration properly attends to *both* these Points, there is no doubt but his Majesty's Reign will be happy and prosperous ; and that it may be so, is the sincere and hearty Prayer of the

March 8,
1766.

AUTHOR.

THE END.

Utile Dulci.

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